



December

CONNECTIONS 2025

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,
reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*

Details inside for all activities

Dickens of a Village: Friday, Dec 5, 5:15 PM

2nd Annual Christmas Scavenger Hunt: Wednesday, Dec 10, 6pm

Senior Lunch & Carols: Thursday, Dec 11, 11:45

Christmas Tree Decorating: Friday, Dec 12 at 5:30 PM

- Pizza to follow at Rudy & Jan Miller's

Children's Christmas Pageant: Sunday, Dec 14 9:00 AM

Blue Christmas Service: Sunday, Dec 14 5:00 PM

Pajama Vespers: Thursday, Dec 18, 6:30PM

Service of Lessons & Carols: Sunday, Dec 21, 9:00 AM

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, Dec 24

- 4:00 PM Interactive Family Worship with Carols and Candles
- 10:00 PM Candlelight worship with St. Luke's Voices

Christmas Day: Thursday, Dec 25

- Worship at 10:00AM

Please come and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



By the time you read this, we will have begun Advent. Much more than just the “countdown to Christmas,” Advent is the season of the year set aside by Christians all over the world to watch and wait for all the ways Christ comes into our lives.

We have some wonderful things planned to make our celebration of Advent and Christmas this year deeper and richer than ever. From caroling in downtown Greendale, to decorating our sanctuary, from the Scavenger Hunt to Blue Christmas, from the children’s pageant to Pajama Vespers to Lessons and Carols, it’s all there to help you connect more deeply with God, with our community and with what the season is all about.

Christmas is a time that many people go home—whether only in their memories or by braving the roads! Even if you haven’t been with us in person in some time, you can always come home to God. God is always ready to meet you and welcome you—whether you need something lighthearted and easy to dip your toes back in (Scavenger Hunt, anyone?) or maybe you need something totally different, like Blue Christmas. Keep reading for all the details!

Our congregation is a better place when you are here. We would love to have you come home for Christmas. If a prayer, a simple conversation, or a ride would help you take that step of coming back to church, please reach out to the church office! We would love to minister to whatever needs you have.

Blessings,
Pastor Monte

Advent devotions

For this year’s devotional practice, we will share daily tiny poems, along with a verse of scripture and a breath prayer. They are short, but really capture the sense of anticipation and preparation for Christ’s coming. You can sign up to receive a daily email or text at the Welcome Center or by emailing the office: stlukes@slchurch.org. If you prefer a paper devotion, we encourage you to take a Christ in our Home, available in pews or on various tables around the Gathering Space. They are excellent devotions, available all year, and they are meant for you to take home and use!



FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! The popular Christmas song enthusiastically heralds in the glorious season of lights, carols, cookies, gifts and joy. In the church we echo that this time of year is indeed wonderful. But beyond the twinkling lights and presents, we celebrate the marvelous gift of God's son, Jesus,. He came and lived among us and sacrificed himself for us so that we could live forever. Another song comes to my mind as I think about the treasures of this season, "Love came down at Christmas, love, all lovely, love divine." That love is truly the gift of the season.

The music tells the story, and there will be many carols, anthems and inspiring times for us to reflect and meditate on. The Sunday School children are preparing a musical on Dec. 14 called, The Wonder. The Handbell Choir and Voices of St. Luke's will share songs and narrations on Dec. 21 with a Service of Lessons and Carols. Other offerings will be Pajama Vespers, Blue Christmas and of course the beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight services. All of these times give us many opportunities to share the great light, joy and love that shines in the darkness of our world.

May your Christmas be filled with that love and joy!

Blessings,

Carol Peterson, Music Director

BLUE CHRISTMAS



Christmas can be a difficult season, whether it is due to the recent death of a loved one, illness, or just the weight of memories that accumulate like snowflakes. If you need a break from the "merry merry," join us on **Dec 14 at 5 pm** as we gather for a reflective service of hope and healing. Feel free to invite friends or family.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our Sunday School children will present their pageant
"The Wonder"

at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on

Sunday, December 14

- All preschool through 5th grade students are a part of the program.
 - Parents should refer to emails from Liz Wiken (lizwiken1978@gmail.com) or in the CONNECTED weekly email for updates
 - There are **three rehearsals** that students need to attend:
 - Saturday, December 6th - 9AM - 11AM
 - Saturday, December 13th - ALL 9AM – 10:30AM
 - Saturday, December 13th – 10:30-11:00 Speaking Parts
 - Sunday School IS in session on December 7 and 21
 - No Sunday School November 30 (Advent Breakfast), Dec 14 or 29.
 - Sunday School classes resume January 4.
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PAJAMA VESPERS



Gather around the Christmas tree for evening Vespers **Thursday, December 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** Children (and adults) are invited to attend in their pajamas and snuggle on the lap of a loved adult. Together we will hear the Christmas story, do an activity, sing carols and celebrate Jesus' birth.

DECEMBER CONFIRMATION

Dec 3 – Confirmation Lesson with Pastor Monte

Dec 10 — Come to the Church wide 2nd Annual Scavenger Hunt. Sign up at the Welcome Center

Dec 17 — Confirmation Christmas Party with Alex Sneed at 6pm

WINGS

WINGS has traditionally given cookies to the homebound and elderly members of our church family. If you, or a church member you know, would find joy in receiving some cookies this year, please contact Julie Ohlert at 414-529-0531 by December 2nd.



Join us each week after worship in the Upper Fellowship Hall as we meet to dig deeper and discuss the day's readings.

Dec 7: Isaiah 11:1-10 ; Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 14: Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 21: Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Poinsettias



We will again be ordering Christmas Poinsettias for the Sanctuary. The cost will be \$12.00. There will be space on the ordering form to designate them in someone's name if you wish. The order forms will be at the Welcome Center or you may call the church office. The deadline to order and pay for the plants will be Sunday Dec 7th.

Thank you for helping to beautify our Church.

FAITH JOURNEY IS...

... an opportunity to explore faith, grow in faith, and get to know others in this community of faith.

... for those who are curious about Jesus or deeply committed; for those new to faith or just new to St. Luke's; for anyone who likes to share stories over a meal!

Join us for Dinner and Conversation
Tuesday nights in January--Jan 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6pm
Start marking your calendars now!

Dickens of a Village!



Everyone is invited to join the caroling in Greendale Village on Friday, December 5. We meet at St. Luke's at 5:15 p.m. (song books are provided) and we carol for about

an hour. If you join us after 5:30, we'll be by National Bakery in the Village. Then we head to a restaurant (TBD) for dinner. It is lots of fun and all voices are welcome!



Second Annual Christmas Scavenger Hunt Wednesday, Dec 10, 6: 00 PM

Fun for All Ages! Join us for the first Annual Christmas Scavenger Hunt! Teams will have a list of items to find/do from all over town, and then we'll come back for cookies, hot cocoa and showing off your scavenger hunt photos. **We need to know how many are coming so we can assign teams and have enough cars/drivers.** Sign up at the Welcome Center!

Let's DECORATE!

Dec 12, 5:30 pm. Come help us make the sanctuary festive for Christmas as we put up the tree! Tasks for all ages—many hands make light work! Then come for pizza afterwards at Rudy & Jan Miller's.



December Outreach of the Month: Giving Tree

Our December Outreach of the Month is the Giving Tree, which will benefit students in need from the Oak Creek area, along with families in need in the Greendale schools. The Giving Tree is in the Gathering Space area, and you can take a tag with gift suggestions and basic info (size, age, gender) on it. After the tags are taken we are collecting the following items for Greendale families (per the school social workers): Gloves/hats/ear guards, new socks for kids/adults, Laundry detergent and dryer sheets, sponges and dish soaps, and hand soap. Gifts for the children should be wrapped; household items don't need to be wrapped. Items need to be back by Dec 14. Thank You!



Make Plans to Attend Our Second Annual St. Luke's Ladies Retreat!

- Friday, January 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm. (check in starts at 5:00 pm) through 4:00 pm on Saturday, January 31, 2026 at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine. All meals, beverages and snacks will be provided. Each participant has a private bedroom and bath with linens and towels included.
- What will we do? Games, worship, prayer time, a service project, a workshop led by Pastor Jaime Larson-McLoone, cookie decorating, rock painting and time for yourself—enjoy the art room, take a walk, or continue conversations with others.
- The cost is \$225 for the full retreat and \$95 if you only want to attend on Saturday. Registrations must include payment (cash, check or Venmo). Registrations close on January 9, 2026.
- Registration forms will be in our Church Office, Gathering Space, and on our website at www.slchurch.org/ladies-retreat/

St. Luke's ladies...we hope to see YOU ALL at the retreat!

Did you know? St. Luke's has a Facebook page, and the more you respond to posts – the more you will see St. Luke's posts and the more they will be shown to other people. *Facebook @St LukesGreendale*

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a member of Thrivent? Did you know that you can direct Thrivent to give some of its charitable donations to the charity of your choice? St. Luke's is already a part of the Thrivent Choice Dollar Directory. Just log in to your account and direct Choice Dollars to choose St. Luke's as your donation recipient. As we work to catch up on our remaining budgetary needs for 2025, this is a great way to help!

ROW CHALLENGE Hey everyone! This is David Enriquez Lopez a member of St. Luke's. I'm organizing a 24-Hour Row Challenge this Christmas and I'd love for our church family to be part of it. We're raising funds for the Milwaukee Center for Children & Youth, a nonprofit that provides safety, care, and hope to kids who have experienced abuse or neglect. The event is happening Dec 6th–7th, and there are several meaningful ways you can join in and support this mission:

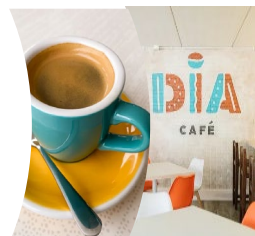
🏊 Row with us! If you'd like to be part of the 24-hour challenge, text message me at 920-840-5224. 🙌 Come encourage the rowers! Stop by, say hello, pray with us, or jump on a rower for a few minutes if one's open. Location will be Crossfit Funky 2865 S 160th St, New Berlin, WI 53151 📱 Spread the word and donate using the QR codeevery gift makes a real difference.



Seniors Lunch & Carols

Join us Thursday,
Dec 11, 2025 at 11:45am
to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.
A special catered lunch will be served, \$10 at the door please. Deadline to sign up at the Welcome Center or call the office is December 5.

Senior Coffee @ DIA in December will be Thursdays, December 4 and 18. In the bustle of the season, take a few moments to enjoy a cup of coffee or some food, with wonderful conversation.



Annual Congregational Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 25, 2026

10:15 AM Following worship

Place: Sanctuary – then Chili Cook Off



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Church Council

The Nomination Committee still has one position to fill for our Church Council for the coming year. We are looking for someone to fill the position of Member-at-Large. This is a two year term. If you have an interest in serving St Luke's Church in this capacity, please contact any one of the committee members for additional information. We are happy to answer any questions or provide the names of other council members to help.

We also need two representatives to attend Synod Assembly, May 30 -31.

Judi Hensley (414) 425-4011

Todd Beutin (414) 305-4283

Peg Palecek (414) 617-0011

Glenna Stelzle (971) 277-0404

BETTER TOGETHER

On behalf of the stewardship team and our entire congregation, we wish to thank you for your response to the 2026 Stewardship campaign. Your pledges will be used to sustain our ministry and mission of ***reaching out to each other, the community, and the world.***

As of now, we have received 107 pledges and a total of \$351,964 pledged, exceeding last year's pledges and exceeding our goal. If you haven't yet submitted a pledge OR a skills/passions inventory, it's not too late! Both are available in the office and online: <https://slchurch.org/giving>

Thank you for being part of this community. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your hope. We are, truly, **better together.**

2026 Stewardship Campaign Team: Dan Dordel, Dave Jensen, Beth Koehler, Jess Williamson and Pastor Monte

You can GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Oct 2025	Offering: \$35,350 Total: \$35,810	\$28,292 \$28,619	Deficit \$7,058 \$7,191	\$353,500 \$358,100	\$330,394 \$335,086	Deficit \$23,106 \$23,014

First Lutheran Food Pantry – Great Work St. Luke’s

	2023	2024	YTD 2025
Total collection in pounds	750	1306	1619



GIVING WITH OUR TIME AND TALENTS:

- +Catherine Sendek, who helps clean, on a regular basis, and all who helped on clean-up day Nov 16
- +The stewardship team, especially Dan Dordel and Jess Williamson, for whom it was their second (and last!) year.
- +Those who work on finance team, preparing the budget, counting money, and maintaining good processes.
- +Pat Larsen who helped sort Kringle.
- +Jan Miller and fellowship for heading up the advent breakfast
- +All who helped with Ministry Fair and Packer Party
- +Mark O, who has been doing lots of odd jobs around the building
- +Rob and Tony—tackling the bubbly paint on the LFH wall AND adding to our exterior with a lit cross on the North side!
- +Steve Palecek, for helping to get the fellowship team going. Now moving on to other ways of serving, but we thank him for his efforts!
- +All of our musicians, who add to the richness of worship, especially Kate and the handbell choir, Carol and the Voices of St. Luke’s, the string quartet, other instrumentalists, and Andrea Clark, our pianist who is also learning organ!
- +Lani Ziller, Beth Devinger, and Bruce and Meg Backman, who helped prepare a meal at the Fisher House.

CONNECTIONS

St. Luke's Church
6705 Northway
Greendale, WI 53129

stlukes@slchurch.org
www.slchurch.org
414-421-1670

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Fellowship: 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Education: 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM
LIVE STREAMED 9:00 A.M.



U.S. Postage

Paid

Greendale, WI

Permit No. 3

DATED MATERIAL